SERIAL RECORD

SOUTH VIET NAM In Struggle

CENTRAL ORGAN OF THE SOUTH VIET NAM NATIONAL FRONT FOR LIBERATION

5th Year
No 146
October 4
1971

DEC 9 - 1971

ADDRESS:
HT 1217 S-SVN
C/O
DAZIMINA HANOI
19, *Hai Ba Trung, Hanoi, DRVN*
and all RSVN Embassies,
Information Bureaux in
foreign countries

After the fighting

NEW PROMOTION OF HEROES

The Council of Ministers of the RSVN PRG on September 20 conferred the title of "Hero Unit" on **21 units** *and the title of "hero" or "heroine" on* **16 combatants** *of the PLAF throughout South Viet Nam for their brilliant exploits in the resistance against the US aggressors, for national salvation, particularly in the general offensive and concerted uprising started in early 1968.*

21 HERO UNITS

1 — **126th Unit** on the Highway 9 Front
2 — **Battalion 9 of C infantry Unit,** Highway 9
3 — **Company 2 of A infantry Unit,** Highway 9
4 — **Company 7 of B infantry Unit,** Highway 9
5 — **Company 9 of T Unit,** Highway 9
6 — **Company 12 of Artillery Unit,** Highway 9
7 — **Company 4 of the Tri-Thien Army Transport Unit**
8 — **Battalion 14 of Air Defence N Unit** in Central Trung Bo
9 — **Company 202,** regional forces of Phu Yen province
10 — **Infantry Company 7,** Central Trung Bo
11 — **Company 2, regional forces in Gia Lai province**
12 — **Company 42 of Air Defence Unit** in Central Trung Bo
13 — **Company 2 of Transport Unit** in Central Trung Bo
14 — **Company 5** in Southern Trung Bo
15 — **Company 36** in Eastern Nam Bo
16 — **Infantry Company 2** of regional forces of My Tho province
17 — **Company 3 of V Unit** in Western Nam Bo
18 — **Field Hospital C2,** Saigon—Gia Dinh area
19 — **Guerilla Movement in V village,** Quang Tri province
20 — **Guerilla Movement in N village,** Kontum province
21 — **Guerilla Movement in Y village,** Quang Tri province

(Continued page 5)

An indictment of arch traitor Nguyen Van Thieu

(*Concluded*)

III. AN ENEMY OF PEACE, DEMOCRACY AND SOCIAL PROGRESS

NOBODY is unaware that Thieu was put in office in 1967 at gunpoint and with bayonets by over half a million US expeditionary troops. No one has forgotten his empty promises during his electoral campaign "to end the war, enforce democracy and transform the society."

In the past 4 years, Thieu's promise to "end the war" has turned out to be its continuation and expansion throughout Indochina, the use of more US bombs and shells and chemical poisons to devastate villages, stepped up raids on the Vietnamese people. At the very moment when Johnson decided to stop the bombing of North Viet Nam, Thieu urged his American bosses to continue the air war against it. He does not want the Americans to pull out of South Viet Nam, he sets his face against the formation of a coalition government, a national concord government under whatever forms. He accused the movement for peace of the Buddhists and other people in the South Viet Nam cities of being one of "defeatism", "surrender," "betrayal to the nation"... to persecute and repress it. Now he is stubbornly opposing the logical and reasonable 7-point peace initiative of the PRG and clinging to his reactionary and bellicose "four nays" position.

AS the trounced American expeditionary have had gradually to withdraw from South Viet Nam, Thieu, on his US bosses' orders, has been putting all his mind in "Vietnamization" to prolong the criminal war, frenziedly "pacify" and slaughter our people in South Viet Nam, perseveringly pressgang youths and force them into the fight, turn his army into an anti-revolutionary army against the people at home and the neighbouring countries.

With his prolongation of the war and "fight to a finish" stand, Thieu has raised the 1971 war budget to 235 million piastres (Saigon currency) and may even ask for "supplementary" credits.

Thieu's pledge "to enforce democracy" and "transform the society" also has proved to be sheer lip-service. In disregard of the law, he has thrown Truong Dinh Dzu and Tran Ngoc Chau into jail, sent his agents to intimidate people, blown up the *Tin Sang* (Morning News) building, and even hurled the whole police machine against the opposition personalities like Ngo Cong Duc. From all these deeds Thieu's emnity towards anyone who stands for peace and national concord has become apparent.

By bribing members of the two legislative bodies and resorting to violence to intimidate them, Thieu has rammed through fascist bills or arbitrary sentences (on Tran Ngoc Chau etc.), and recently the anti-democratic law on presidential elections whose Article 10 (Provision 7) keeps those favouring peace and neutrality from running.

Since the promulgation of fascist law 10-68, which declared a state of war, banned all demonstrations, meetings and strikes, Thieu has been repressing and terrorizing ever more furiously movements, organizations and individuals militating for independence, peace, an end to the war, total withdrawal of US troops welfare and democratic freedoms.

In Spring of the Mau Than Lunar year (1968), in a crackdown on the workers' movement, Thieu had Tran Van Kieu, Vice-president of the Liberation Federation of Trade Unions in Saigon - Cholon - Gia Dinh dastardly murdered. He brazenly arrested Nguyen Van Giau, Truong Van Kham and Nguyen Van Giot, respectively member, adviser and administrative head of the Saigon Federation of Free Trade Unions. Early in April 1969, Thieu brought 17 workers of the Dacotex enterprise before the "military court" in the 3rd tactical zone under the charge of relations with the Liberation Trade Unions. He also frequently mounts "city population census" drives to legalize police raids in various streets and labouring people's living quarters.

FOR the press, Thieu has promulgated reactionary press laws stipulating the closing down of paper editorial offices and prison sentences on these pressmen who fail to publish reactionary articles or news items imposed by him. Worse still, to strangle the freedom of speech and independence of the press, he has been striving to manipulate, bribe and sway the trade union of pressmen and restrict the supply of newsprint, causing a number of papers to stop coming out. In defiance of Article 12 of the Saigon "constitution" recognizing the freedom of the press, Thieu has arbitrarily confiscated many papers, and once 9 papers were seized in one day. The paper *Tin Sang* (Morning News) alone has been eight times prohibited and has had 148 numbers confiscated.

Thieu has been resorting to constant repression of professors, teachers, students and pupils, especially since the emergence of the students and pupils' movement for independence, freedom, welfare, democracy and peace, for academic autonomy, against enslaving culture, and militarization of schools.

Flouting all legality, Thieu's men in Da Nang city in August 1968 sentenced to death a 16-year-old pupil named Nguyen Van Luc, and to 15 years of hard labour a 15-year-old named Nguyen Van Tu, while Thieu turned a blind eye to the murder by GIs of Nguyen Van Minh, a 12-year-old pupil in Quy Nhon city. Thieu has had medical student Tran Quoc Chuong killed, illegally arrested and sentenced to 5 years of hard labour law student Nguyen Tuong Con, sentenced in absentia to 10 years' imprisonment Nguyen Dang Trung, President of the General Union of Saigon Students, and passed a 20 years' hard labour verdict on girl student Vo Thi Thang. Thieu has also apprehended hundreds of students and deported dozens of others including many girl students to Con Son Island.

He brutalized the torch procession for peace organized by Saigon students and pupils on 1968 Christmas eve.

On 1969 Christmas eve, Thieu's police agents manhandled and dispersed the "soirée of Xmas music for peace" attended by nearly 1.000 students at the Saigon Agriculture-Forestry—Breeding School. On August 30, 1970, Thieu for the first time called in US-manned helicopters to fire rockets and hurl poisonous hand-grenades at over 1,000 representatives of Saigon, Hue, Da Lat and Can Tho students and pupils demonstrating against "militarization of schools," for university autonomy, independence and peace. 117 students including Huynh Tan Mam, President of the General Union of Saigon Students and President of the Permanent Representation of South Vietnamese Students, were arrested on this occasion. The Thieu clique also ordered police agents to poison the drinking water of students and pupils who were fasting for the release of Huynh Tan Mam and his comrades-in-arms. Many affected students vomitted blood and fainted. More serious still, on the night of January 2 this year, Thieu sent 2,500 police agents, mostly field policemen commanded by 4 Americans to besiege the Minh Mang University Quarter. The raiders threw tear-gas hand-grenades on the students on their way back from a religious service at An Quang Pagoda, wounding many of them and making several other swoon.

Students fighting for peace, democracy victimized by Thieu

AS for the Buddhists, Thieu has been even more brutal than Ngo Dinh Diem. He has jailed many monks and Superior bonzes including Thich Thien Minh. He has enacted decreelaw 23-67 abolishing the legal status of the Viet Nam Unified Buddhist Association, and created a group of anti-religious and traitorous believers. Thieu has actually ordered the killing of hundreds of Buddhist monks and nuns in Hue, Da Nang, the smashing of altars, Buddha's statues, detained thousands of Buddhists on various islands and emprisoned hundreds of Buddhist youths who refused to enrol into the army.

The Thieu clique have even assassinated and ill-treated a number of Saigon MPs despite their immunity, and fired at their own disabled army-men, and against parading army widows, wives and orphans claiming their right to live and denouncing Thieu's "lemon-squeezing" policy.

Thieu's brazen and villainous manoeuvres aimed at helping him retain his presidential seat for another term, such as the fascist electoral law, terror, assassination or threat with retaliatory measures against the opposition, arrest or prosecution of students, cooked elections, all these have been arousing a strong discontent among the people of all walks of life, created a confused and tense situation in Saigon and other cities. His frauds have been so flagrant that General Minh and General Ky have had to boycott the elections.

ONLY the aforesaid bloody crimes among the innumerable others committed by Thieu in the past four years, not including the ones he perpetrated when in the French army and before he ascended the Saigon presidency, are enough to justify a death sentence on him before the tribunal of history.

Rallied within the movement against the US aggressors, against Thieu and especially in the ebullient movement against rigged elections in Saigon and other cities, not only the youths, students and pupils but also broad masses of the people have gathered dossiers on Thieu's horrible crimes and burned him in effigy. General Ky himself has issued a black book on Thieu and castigated him as a "tyranical king who deceives his teachers and betrays his friends."

In face of the big calamities created by the US and Thieu clique in the past 4 years, the South Vietnamese people have been resolved to meet iron and steel with iron and steel, to oppose hatred to repression. They have been waging a many-sided and multiform battle to make the warlike Thieu clique pay for their blood debts.

They fully realize that with Thieu there can be neither peace nor democracy, and our fellow-countrymen have to suffer more deaths and devastations.

An end to the war, the total US troop withdrawal, the overthrow of the bellicose and traitorous ring leader Nguyen Van Thieu, the rapid formation in Saigon of a national concord government favouring peace, independence, neutrality to meaningfully negotiate with the PRG, early peace for the country, such are the pressing claims and objectives of the South Vietnamese people, especially of those in Saigon and other cities. They are also the only way to put an end to all the present tragedy of our people.

ALL US ADVENTUROUS MOVES WILL BE THWARTED

ON Sept. 21, 1971, US planes bombed and strafed populated areas of Quang Binh province in hundreds of sorties. It was an extremely serious act of war of the Nixon administration against the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, in the wake of a series of strikes against many localities Vinh Linh, Quang Binh and Ha Tinh by US aircraft and artillery stationed South of the DMZ and warships cruising in the Gulf of Tonkin.

The Quang Binh people and armed forces, always on the lookout, gave a splendid performance in downing 2 US jets and damaging several others, as relevant answer to the US savage assault.

With this, the US once again unmasked itself and all the Nixon declarations about "goodwill for peace," "willingness for negotiations," "solicitude for the fate of US prisoners of war" appeared in their true colours. The "protective reaction" pretext invoked by the US imperialists was unable to conceal their warlike nature. It is a fact that in his 3 years of office, Nixon has been endeavouring to carry out his policy of "Vietnamizing" the war, which means not only the prolongation and intensification of hostilities in South Viet Nam, but also their expansion to Cambodia, the stepping-up of the "special war" in Laos and repeated infringements of the sovereignty and security of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam. The aggressors however are finding themselves in direst stratis as setbacks have been piling up on the battlefronts and political, economic and social difficulties in the United States. Bruised by recent reverses in U Minh, Tay Ninh, Ai Tu (South Viet Nam), Phnom Penh (Cambodia), the Plain of Jars, Paksong (Laos), Nixon chose to follow Johnson's beaten track and ventured to North Viet Nam in the hope of getting out of his fix, but like on previous occasions, he only got in return a slap in the face.

The more the US prolongs and expands its war of aggression, the more failures it will invite upon itself. All of its adventurous moves will be checked. The Indochinese peoples, resolved to fight on for national independence and freedom until complete victory, are not to be subdued by US military force

The South Vietnamese people and armed forces warmly hail the Sept. 21 feat of arms of their Northern kith and kin and feel greatly encouraged by it. Following up their gains, they are determined to overcome all hardships and difficulties, win ever bigger successes and completely frustrate the US "Vietnamization" program. They will never fail to live up to their pledge. Each US blow at the North is to be requited with 5, and even 10 blows, in this land of the Southern "Brass Citadel" from its people and armed forces.

POLITICAL TURMOIL WORSENS IN SOUTH VIET NAM

THE urban effervescence over the "presidential election" farce, against US-Thieu, for democratic freedoms has been growing over the past few days.

In Saigon and Hue, the "Burn American cars, beat up GIs", "No to the Thieu-Huong ticket", "Down with militarization of schools" campaigns by university and secondary school students have been warmly responded to by various popular segments.

In Saigon the "No to the Thieu-Huong ticket" drive was initiated on Sept. 12 by hundreds of students at Minh Mang and Van Hanh universities, at the Truong Minh Giang market place and elsewhere. Thieu-Huong election posters were torn to pieces, and their portraits crossed out or added Hitler's mustaches. The demonstrators held a requiem at Van Hanh university for the souls of their comrades who had died at the Quang Trung Military Training Centre. In an explosive atmosphere, a spokesman stated that they would push up their actions against the military training scheme and urge Thieu to cancel this program to turn them into cannon-fodder for the US and his regime.

The same day a protest rally was convened outside the American Embassy. Leaflets littered the street fronting the compound and posters were stuck to the fences and right at the entrance: "Proconsul Bunker and US Embassy staff go home", "Down with the militarist quisling Nguyen Van Thieu." Fire bombs were hurled at the auto park and the US Navy Command building, setting afire several vehicles. The gatherers intercepted and beat up overbearing GI passers-by.

In Hue, also on Sept. 12, official campaign day for the Thieu-Huong slate, students and townfolk paraded through the city's streets. They chanted anti-US-Thieu slogans and carried placards protesting Thieu's running alone.

On Sept 13, at a teach-in, representatives of Saigon political and religious organizations and MPs exposed the October poll as "meaningless," and called on the people of all walks of life to join actions against this US-Thieu-directed farce. The Viet Nam Catholic Intellectuals Movement, the Association for the Protection of Human Dignity and Civil Rights and the South Viet Nam Regeneration Movement published a declaration urging that Thieu-Huong should renounce to stand for a one-ticket election as it is tantamount to a piece of "treason to the nation."

On Sept. 14 the Viet Nam Council of Religions consisting of representatives of the Buddhist, Catholic, Cao Dai and Hoa Hao communities met in an emergency session. The assembly put out a statement accusing Thieu-Huong of unconstitutional, illegal and undemocratic acts and called for Thieu's resignation to pave the way for fair elections.

Northern Catholic refugees, together with their Southern co-believers, set up an Anti-October 3 Election Front. In a declaration the Front stated it would combine action with all spiritual communities, all student and other organizations, and opposition parties against the next ballot.

The same day, a delegation composed of 100 representatives of Christian students and various organizations marched to the bishop's residence. There they burned election cards and sang militant songs for peace and against the dictatorial, militaristic regime.

Meanwhile in a four-point declaration the Catholic Movement for peace denounced the October election as a Washington's trick to continue Thieu in power and pursue its aggressive war; it urged Nixon to put an end to a farce that smears the good name of the United States, to withdraw US troops rapidly and totally and leave the Vietnamese people to settle themselves their own affairs.

On Sept. 15, 500 Hue Students paraded again through the streets, distributing 50,000 leaflets saying among other things: "Hue students, shoulder to shoulder with all political and religious organizations, firmly insist that Nguyen Van Thieu give up his present office. Nixon should respect the right to self-determination of the Vietnamese people and forthwith renounce supporting whatever warlike ruling group, chiefly the Nguyen Van Thieu—Tran Van Huong tandem."

On Sept. 16, also in Hue, students gave a press conference: they demanded that the US pull out its troops and that Thieu resign. They held the local US Command responsible for the murder of a young Vietnamese by a GI on Sept. 13 in the city. Student unrest continued unabated until the 20th in spite of harsh repressive measures.

Angered by the obstinate attitude of the US and Thieu more and more political and spiritual organizations, which had so far backed the present Saigon regime, raised their voices against the latter.

On Sept. 21, Buu Ky Son Huong, Head of the Viet Nam Quoc Tu Pagoda, addressed an open letter to Thieu, asking him to cancel the October 3 election and prepare for another one. He also pressed for complete US troop withdrawal toward the close of 1971.

On Sept. 30, in a communique the arch-bishop of Saigon stated that the next elections should take place freely, fairly and democratically. If "the believers witnessed frauds," he added, "they should make it a point to oppose them."

On Sept. 19, speaking at a press conference attended by leaders of religious and political opposition organizations, the Secretary General of the Social Democratic Party—which had been until then behind Thieu—declared: "This party approves neither the October 3 elections nor the recent elections to the "Lower House," for they are unconstitutional undertakings."

Answering a *CBS* correspondent the same day, both retired General Duong Van Minh and Vice President of the "Viet Nam Republic" Nguyen Cao Ky commented that if he was returned as "president", "Thieu would have to govern by violence." They warned that: "History has taught that he who rules by violence will not last long," and "counter-violence will ensue as consequence."

Along with actions against Thieu as the single runner, actions against the militarization of schools alsol continue with mounting fury in all higher and middle establishments.

On Sept. 15, 200 students of several universities strongly condemned the militarization program of the Nguyen Van Thieu clique, and urged Thieu to cancel the program to turn students into cannon-fodder for US imperialism. In defiance of the Saigon Defence Ministry orders, 300 students of the Agricultural Centre went on a hunger strike to protest the said program. A spokesman of the group said this was "the first phase of the campaign against the militarization program... and there will be other steps such as boycott of exams, street demontrations, occupation of universities and government offices."

The student protest has been supported by public opinion in Saigon. On Sept. 11, the Senate Defense Committee recommended in a communique that the militarization program be suspended pending the drafting of a relevant law. Tran Van Tan, deputy head of the Higher Education Establishments' Institute, made clear his backing for the students' effort and urged the cancellation of the program.

Clearly enough the new high in the strong feeling of social sections and opposition parties against the stubborn behaviour of Thieu and his boss, the US administration, has rendered the current political crisis in Saigon more explosive.

Van Hanh students burning Thieu in effigy in protest against election frauds

In order to implement their American bosses' scheme to turn South Viet Nam youths and pupils into cannon-fodder the Saigon administration has failed many candidates to the CGE and forced them to enlist at local induction centres. This has angered the students, pupils and various strata of the people. Petitions have been sent to the Thieu regime to press for the termination of this manœuvre.

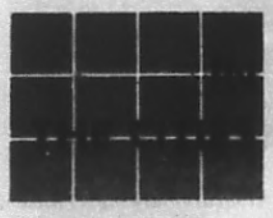
◦ Under the impact of the protest of one million workers and employees in South Viet Nam cities, the Thieu administration had to declare on September 15 a temporary suspension of the wage-tax and promised to consider the workers' claims.

• Workers of the Saigon BGI demanded a 30 per cent increase in basic wages for all of them and free medical attention for their sick mates. They pointed out that if their claims were not met they would step up their action and call on all friendly TUs for help.

◦ Workers' representatives at US offices in Van Don wharf (Saigon) let it be known that nearly 1,000 workers had decided to oppose the American warehouse keeper's bullying of, and overbearing attitude toward, Vietnamese workers.

› On September 17, in an emergency meeting the managerial board of kerosene and other fuel trade-unions (Saigon) protested against their ESSO bosses' dismissal of their deputy TU leader. It warned all the ESSO workers against a schemed general lay-off and called on them especially on those at Nha Be to get ready for action.

• In protest against the Saigon administration's assault on the Redeemer's Church on September 14, the "Committee for a Better Prison Regime" in Saigon made public a communique. It pointed out that: "the brazen attack on, and destruction of, the church by the administration, its encroachment on the freedom of belief and hindering of the opposition forces' contacts with US Senator McGovern had supplied another piece of evidence to the public at home and abroad of its totalitarian and bellicose character."



Autumn Crop of Heroes

ON the occasion of the 26th Nam Bo Resistance Day, the Provisional Revoludionary of the Republic of South Viet Nam has published a roll of honour citing 21 units and 16 officers and men of the People's Liberation Armed Forces. The long list of heroes of the Fatherland's Brass Citadel has thus been extended with new entries of its most representative communities and children.

The event marked a substantial advance in our people's resistance against US aggression and for national salvation, a revolutionary undertaking, gruelling but glorious.

It exalted our pride in our PLAF, who again proved to be worthy continuators of Nam Bo Resistance tradition, of the nation's epic march initiated more than 25 autumns ago. In the course of that quarter of a century, Viet Nam's revolutionary heroism has also reached dizzy heights.

SINCE 1965, besides tens of thousands of champion and outstanding fighters of all stripes, there have been 77 units and 149 individuals commended, including the present batch, belonging to all arms and services.

The first Congress of Army Heroes, Model Combatants and Valiant Fighters which glorified 23 of them, threw light on the failure of US special war.

The second one, convened 4 years ago to decorate 47 heroes, spelled out our initial successes against US limited war and ushered in a new stage in our effort.

The units and combatants honoured in 1969 and 1970 were instrumental in our all-sided gains of strategic significance in series of offensives and uprisings.

The achievements of this year's contingent of brave brought out the setbacks of "Vietnamization," focal point of the Nixon doctrine. They illustrated our posture of relentless offensive and our irresistible impetus toward final victory in the most excruciating and grim phase of our resistance.

The records of our heroes and heroines particularly of those of 1970-1971 showed a steady growth of the PLAF, first and foremost in political consciousness and ideology. Those remarkable sons and daughters of our people have evinced the excellent qualities of a people's army: unswerving loyalty to the country and the people, fearlessness of hardships and sacrifices, singleness of purpose, incredible stamina and fortitude.

They also supplied vivid images of their maturity in tactics, techniques, organizational and command abilities, in combined action between various arms. They forcefully demonstrated the full capability of the PLAF to foil all enemy operational and tactical methods and to inflict increasingly severe losses on the adversary. The latter's tactics mainly based on a powerful fire-power and extensive mobility, their use of tanks and armoured cars as principal assaulting forces, their enclaves on heights successively turned out to be of little effectiveness against an opponent whose courage, endurance, resourcefulness, combat technique and experience more often than not pass the Yankees' comprehension.

THE cited units distinguished themselves by their invincibility, rapid progress and growth through the crucible of combat and by their unusual exploits. Outfit 126 active on Highway 9 sent to the bottom or damaged over 300 enemy vessels, knocked out more than 3,000 adverse troops, and sank nearly 800,000 thousand tons of US-Saigon war materials. The AAC battalion 14 wove a net of iron and lead in the sky of South Central Viet Nam and blasted to pieces over 500 US aircraft of all denominations, which was no mean contribution to the shattering of the US aerial supremacy myth. Of the infantry of the main army, battalion 9, company 2 and company 7 deployed on Highway 9, company 7 on the central battlefront of Central Viet Nam, company 5 in South Central Viet Nam, company 3 in West South Viet Nam, company 36 in East South Viet Nam and of the infantry of the regional armed forces company 202 (Phu Yen), company 2 (Gia Lai), company 2 (My Tho)... delivered murderous punches at the opponent, and seized a considerable quantity of prisoners and weapons. Among the technical services such units as company 9, artillery company 12 on Highway 9, AAC company 42 in Tay Nguyen became famous for their performances free from reverses in coordinated as well as in independent actions. Transport company 4 (Tri-Thien-Hue), Transport company 2 (Tay Nguyen), Infirmary C2 (Saigon Gia Dinh) were mentioned for their unqualified dedication, high sense of responsibility and great efficiency even in the most adverse circumstances.

Among the localities which achieved fame with their vigorous guerilla warfare, combat and production accomplishments, fruitful political actions and propaganda work among enemy soldiers, stubborn resistance to US-Saigon bloody pacification and effective assistance to the main troops, one can pick out the names of villages V and Y of Quang Tri and village N of Kontum.

We owe a glowing tribute to those cadres and men who lived braves and died heroes and heroines like Nguyen Hung Le, Nguyen Van Thai, Le Thi Hong Gam, the 19-year-old girl from My Tho known for her unalloyed allegiance to the people and relentlessness toward the foe.

In the numbers of their living comrades, in whom are allied talent and virtue, courage and strength, dedication to the people and devotion to their mates many names can be listed: deputy political commissar of company 7 Le Ma Luong, platoon leader Phung Quang Thanh, deputy regiment leader Nguyen Huu Tri, company leader Luong Tan Thinh, company leader Bui Duc Son, company leader Tran Kim Cau, district militia cadre Nguyen Van Nguyen, deputy village militia commander Bui Van Thuyen, deputy company leader Mai Dinh...

Others like platoon leader Le Van Uc, sappers' company leader Trinh To Tam, gunman Trieu Tien Xuan, nurse Vo Thi Huynh..., displayed a high sense of responsibility and discipline, fearlessness of difficulties and dangers.

While taking pride in their splendid records, we constantly bear in mind the factors which made them possible: beloved Uncle Ho's guidance, the National Front for Liberation and the PRG solicitude, our Northern kindred's fond and wholehearted assistance, and the staunch support, unfailing encouragement and aid of our friends all over the world.

WHILE hailing the newly-awarded individuals and groups of the PLAF, we pride ourselves on our nation and our army, with a profound sense of history, full awareness of the extraordinary incentive power of great President Ho Chi Minh's banner and appreciation of the Front and Provisional Revolutionary Government lucid leadership.

The happy occasion has also enhanced in all of us the perception of our heavy but glorious responsibility in this most momentous period in the 4 thousand years of our nation's existence.

No doubt, the magnificent example set by the new pick of the land's defenders will fire our troops and people to uphold Viet Nam's revolutionary heroism, to follow up our successes in towns as well as in countryside, to completely frustrate US-Saigon "Vietnamization" and to bring our resistance to fruition.

SOUTH VIET NAM IN STRUGGLE

Taking aim at the enemy

LE MA LUONG
Our Hero

IN a fierce battle at Lang Vay in 1968, Le Ma Luong received serious wounds and lost an eye. He was sent to a military medical station.

As a matter of fact, Le Ma Luong was a schoolboy. He joined the Liberation armed forces at the age of 17, with the very candid thought that "the army is a college."

HIS outfit had been in a flutter preparing for an attack. He was then only 21, but had been promoted deputy political commissar of company.

That day, enemy helicopters were incessantly hovering overhead, raining at random bombs and shells on the battlefield.

From a hilltop, adverse 81 mm mortars blazed away in all directions, and some of their shells exploded near our position. Luong went and inspected every trench, and talked to his men. He told them of their mates' latest successes. He recommended to the defenders of both flanks to hold at any cost, to engage in close combats, if necessary, to aim accurately and to give quick mutual support to one another.

Back in his own dug-out, Luong quietly pondered over the task entrusted to him by his superiors. Two units had successively tried to recapture the bolt position, but had failed. As his company, codenamed C7, had recently distinguished itself in an ambush on Highway 9 by wiping out 20 vehicles, taking many prisoners and seizing a great quantity of weapons, Luong had now taken direct command of the recapture of the post and eventually had to hold it to the last man.

After receiving the order, he discussed the operational plan with the unit command and selected the attacking prongs. After half a day of furious fighting, Luong and his men succeeded in stopping dead adverse attacks from the "nameless" hill. Luong's unit had undertaken to defend the position against all odds.

The enemy again made another sally. Their planes continued their reconnaissance flights. Mortar shells kept falling everywhere. The adverse troops were divided into two spearheads: the first mounted an onset on the B.40 gun-nest manned by Hai, and the second crossed the trail and directly charged Luong's shelter on the left side.

Waiting till the attackers came within range Luong opened up with his submachine-gun, as a signal to all his men.

The enemy were taken by surprise, many of them were instantly cut down and several others who tried to run away were mown down by Dung's submachine-gun, planted beside Luong. From the right side, Thinh's machine-gun halted those advancing behind, while Hai's B-40 fire seemed to tear the air to shreds.

The enemy from the back side massed behind two fallen trees lying across the road, and concentrated their fire on our position. There were frantic blows of whistle and shouts to charge.

Luong wiped beads of sweat off his forehead, and said to Dung:

"Be ready to deal with them if they come close!" A mortar shell suddenly exploded before Tao's position, sending stones, earth and dry branches flying. Another went off near Dung's submachine-gun emplacement. Luong turned round and saw Dung wiping with his hand drops of blood running down his cheek.

"Nothing serious", he said in attempt to set his C.O's mind at ease.

But Luong dashed toward him and dressed his wound. Dung's face turned ashen because he was losing much blood.

"Try to crawl back to the trench and take a rest, and give me your hand grenades," Luong said.

"No, let me stay," Dung insisted,

The enemy continued to blow their whistles and scream out orders. Le Ma Luong took Dung's submachine-gun. He cast a glance at Thinh and Hai but both remained silent in a cloud of smoke. The enemy, split into small groups, tried to move forward. They prodded one another on, but many of them retreated.

"You all want to die, don't you?", Luong said to himself, stood up and tightly grasped his submachine-gun. Thinh looked askance and saw that Luong was preparing for a hand-to-hand fight. He also rose up, training his gun at the approaching assailants, while Tao standing behind was readily waiting for the "fire" order. Luong's

submachine-gun suddenly spit fire. Many enemy troops fell,

But Luong suddenly felt a pain in his hip and nape, and when he touched the places, his hand got slimy. Having no time to dress his wounds and judging that this was a golden opportunity, he kept pressing the trigger. But after only 7 shots, his gun got jammed. He sweated profusely. He bent down and put his weapon on the fortification wall. After wiping his face with his shirt sleeve, Luong took out 5 hand-grenades and also placed them on the wall. Everything unfolded quite naturally like a routine. After signalling to Tao and Thinh to open fire, he immediately hurled 3 hand-grenades at the adversary hiding behind the trees. The enemy prong on the left was also knocked out by Hai's B-40 and Hong's AK.

Only then could Luong see to his wounds, and realize that his artificial eye was partly broken by a splinter.

On learning that Luong had been injured, the battalion command rang him up and ordered him to go a rear hospital. But Luong again asked to stay with his men. He was aware that theirs was an extremely tough job. Death and life were but an inch apart. But he had made up his mind.

Now, in Luong's ears there was a buzz and his throat was so hoarse thut one could hardly hear his voice. 3 of the 10 water-bottles brought to the position had been riddled with bullets and the nylon bag of vater also hit had lost one half of its content. He went to every trench and distributed water to his men and even gave away his ration.

When the commander of the Regiment visited the battlefield and brought him a bottle of tea and medicines, he also shared them with his men.

Seeing that Luong was not quite well, the Regiment deputy-commander sent Ty, another young fighter, to replace him, and ordered him to take a rest. Finally Luong had to comply.

The enemy launched a series of counter-attacks. Ty got serious wounds, and eventually had to abandon the position.

The Regiment Command decided to detach a group to recapture it. But who was qualified to lead it? As the choice of Le Ma Luong was being discussed, the latter and company leader Hung rang up to offer their services.

This time, he took with him platoon leader Phuong and some other combats such as Le Ly, Ha Cong Binh..., and his own captured US mortar.

His group struck devastatingly at the opponent and succeeded in recovering the position and driving the enemy off.

Since then, the "nameless" him was called "C7" bolt position, and Luong's resolve to defend it had become famous in the whole battalion.

7 days later, the enemy again tried to rush the "C7" position, but as it was defended by Luong and his intrepid men, their new attempts were thwarted. They had to give up even their endeavour to coordinate actions with a friendly detachment in the South.

15 days afterwards, the adversary was completely wiped out.

As for Le Ma Luong, he was awarded the title of "Outstanding Valiant Fighter."

IN his 4 years in the Liberation Army, he took part in many battles, has been four times honoured with the "Valiant Fighter" distinction and once with an "Exploit Order Second Class."

Le Ma Luong and his men are still on active service. He is carrying the same sub-machine-gun and the same individual captured mortar. With the same "oval face and look of a schoolboy," he has become an experienced commander, always mixing with his men and constantly in the van in fighting and with an unflinching sense of purpose.

On September 20, 1971, the Council of Ministers of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam commended Le Ma Luong as a "Hero of the People's Liberation Armed Forces."

KHANH KIM

New Promotion of HEROES

16 HEROES

(*Continued from page 1*)

1 — **Nguyen Hung Le** (posthumously cited), commander of group 1, main force "Hero Unit" on Highway 9
2 — **Nguyen Van Thai** (posthumously cited), regional force company commander, Hue city
3 — **Le Thi Hong Gam** (posthumously cited), regional force platoon commander, My Tho province
4 — **Le Ma Luong**, deputy political commissar of infantry company 7, main force unit A, Highway 9
5 — **Phung Quang Thanh**, infantry platoon commander, main force group C, Highway 9
6 — **Le Van Uc**, squad leader of main force Unit 2, Highway 9
7 — **Trieu Tien Xuan**, Zao national minority, artillery gunner number 1 on Highway 9
8 — **Trinh To Tam** company leader of main force engineering, Tri-Thien area
9 — **Luong Tan Thinh**, company leader of regional forces in Phu Yen province
10 — **Bui Duc Son**, company leader of the main forces in Central Trung Bo
11 — **Tran Kim Cau**, infantry company leader of X Unit of the main forces in Eastern Nam Bo
12 — **Nguyen Huu Tri**, deputy regiment leader in Eastern Nam Bo
13 — **Bui Van Thuyen**, village militia deputy leader in Tay-Ninh province
14 — **Mai Dinh**, deputy leader company in Gia Dinh province
15 — **Vo Thi Huynh**, medical nurse of regional forces in Gia Dinh province
16 — **Nguyen Van Nguyen**, district guerilla leader of regional forces in Gia Dinh province.

Viet Nam

as seen by foreign writers

(Concluded)

COUNTLESS photographers, film makers, painters, composers hailing from far distant lands like France, Cuba, Poland, the Soviet Union, China, Australia ... have, with the help of a bamboo walking stick, spent months on the road before reaching South Viet Nam liberated areas to congratulate us on our successes against the US aggressors. None of them was a septuagenarian but many of them belonged to the fair sex like **Martha Rojas, Madeleine Riffaud, Monika Varnenska...** Naturally they did not come here to to attend a wedding. They had climbed high peaks and crossed impetuous streams from the resistance bases to the enemy rear to experience the hard life of the guerillas. From these unusual episodes, a crop of works has flowered which depict men who are indomitable, resourceful, creative and full of stamina, of the stretches of silt on the shores of the Dong Nai and La Nga rivers, like *South Viet Nam, or the Certainly Victorious Strategy* and *Three Months with the Guerillas, The Jungle Front...*

There have been people unfamiliar with revolution, "uncommitted to either side"(1) prompted only by the love for adventure to risk an expedition into our liberated zone, like **Michèle Ray** a former model, an amateur of motor car tourism who had been to Africa, America and who was longing to see with her own eyes the fate of man, including the Eurepean man, hanging in the balance at the 17th parallel.

In her diary "From both shores of Hell," **Michèle** eventually wrote: "I wanted to be an impartial witness. But how could one be impartial in the Viet Nam war ? I've taken my stand: If I were Vietnamese, I should be a Viet Cong."

Since our Northern fellow-countrymen had to confront the US air war, numerous writers and artists have visited Hanoi. From socialist countries, from the other side of the Atlantic, from the Western Hemisphere, from Scandinavia, from North East Asia, from Southernmost Africa, from Australia. From all corners of the world they converged there, equipped with weapons of their own — fountain pens, photo and movie cameras, recorders, easels, musical instruments, stage properties — to do their bits in the fighting. Once in the North, they have all asked to go to the 4th zone, the fireline of the North.

It is hard for the people there to forget the sights of an old Chinese writer leaning on his stick to cross a jungle bridge in Quang Binh, of a young Soviet author sharing baked potatoes with Ha Tinh farmers. A Deutch film director lived 2 months in an underground with Vinh Linh people, a Korean man of letters helped gunners man an A.A.C. battery during a US raid on Thanh Hoa, an African journalist took part in road repair at the side of Vietnamese youths in Nghe An, a Japanese photographer gave a hand to peasants in scooping up water into the fields during a drought in Vinh Linh, a Cuban newsman joined in a tree-planting drive in Nam Ngan, a US publicist mused on atrocities freshly inflicted by his country's pilots on Quynh Lap lepers. Every one of them wanted to take a look at the famous Ham Rong bridge which stood up to months of US fury.

It seemed that every one was braced by the climate and weather though inclement, by the scenery, by the exultation of the Northern people and armed forces. "Those who like a lesson on optimism are welcome to Viet Nam" (2). "Optimism in Viet Nam is a catching disease which acts quickly. I had a lot of worries before coming to Viet Nam. But once there, I was all day in as high spirits as the young lasses doing repair work on the roads. They forgot about their suffering to think about others' happiness" (3).

Back home, each of them in his own idiom and manner has created images now known to the peoples of the world: the Ham Rong bridge, the Nam Ngan militia girl, the Hau Loc (Thanh Hoa) old sharpshooter, the old lady in charge of the Gianh River ferry crossing, the gold-starred red flag on the Ben Hai River, President Ho's birthplace in Nghe An, the land of the first Vietnamese Soviet, Hanoi, the target of more than 500 US raids, the Hong Gai mining area, the Nam Dinh Textile Complex...

World literature and arts have been made richer by a series of productions on Viet Nam: *Like Viet Nam* by **Armand Gaty**, *The Seventeenth Parallel, People's War*, films by **Joris Ivens**, *Hanoi Diary* by **Mary McCarthy**, *Sing for Viet Nam*, an anthology of 75 poets from 28 countries, *Viet Nam*, a play by **Peter Weiss**, *Pilots in Pyjamas* a film by **Haynosiki** and **Shumann**. *The Last Judgment*, a novel by **Blaga Dimitrova** *Ricefields and Battlefields* by **Karl** and **Jane Stern**, *The Boatman's Shanty* by **Neruda**, *The Vietnamese Child's Song* by **Emilio**, *The Skylark* by **Stancu**. Mention must be made here of **Barbara Bidler**, 12, US's poem *on the napalm bombing of Haiphong* and the Filipino former beauty queen, **Jemma Araneta's** *Hanoi journal*.

No doubt, those artistic creations have been a great source of encouragement for the Vietnamese. But it is also beyond question that the Vietnamese people's fight and life has contributed to world progressive literature and arts many an interesting theme and type of hero of our times. US writer **Francis Hering** has written: Your blood and tears have blossomed in literature, music, playwriting... arts which enhance man's sense of dignity, innumerable people's confidence and love of life. Haitian author **René Depestre** also has said: You are fighting with matchless courage for mankind's civilization, so that every one in your country can become a generator of light which will illuminate humanity."

CASUALLY glancing at world map on the daub and wattle wall, **Ly Van Sam** resumed with emotion and a deeper interest: "In the old days, when the feudalists were still ruling over this land, they used to summon artists to their palaces to sing, play music, compose poems and entertain them. But others objected to this debasement of arts, roamed from place to place, mixed with the common people, with wood cutters, with fishermen, sang and played music for mountains and rivers, for the labouring men, whose life was thereby brightened up.

Nowadays, the golden thrones have been toppled one after another. Imperialism has been showing its teeth in many places. Many artists and literators have chosen the fight against oppression, against aggressive wars, against fascist colonialism as the purpose of their life and the theme of their works. They were with the Red Army in 1917, with the Republicans in Spain in 1936, in Nanking in 1937, in Abyssinia in 1936-1938, in Lidice, in Oradour... in 1940-1944, in Hiroshima in 1945, in Korea in 1952-1953, in Northernmost Viet Nam and Dien Bien Phu in 1953-1954, in Algeria and Cuba 1959-1960..."

Since the White House has committed hundreds of thousands of GI's to South Viet Nam and carried out an air war against North Viet Nam, a host of artists and writers have thrown in their lots with this country, identifying themselves and their work with it and with its epic battle. After their visits to the land which daringly and successfully confronts the most fiendish imperialism of all times, they have been telling various nations and peoples of its saga. The five continents have been ringing with poems of such bards.

It is still too soon to draw up a full list of them. Their bodies are at home but their souls are in Viet Nam. "Inside in my house as outside in the streets, morning and evening, listening to the radio or reading the newspaper, I always think of Viet Nam. There is a permanent urge in me to do something for it everyday." (**Jane Stern** DRA).

How can the Vietnamese forget !

Madeleine Riffaud who visited the National Front for Liberation still little known in its base, who witnessed US raids in the thick of the aerial and naval war against the North;

Joris Ivens with his shock of snowy hair, racked by an incessant cough, who spent two months at the Vinh Linh forefront, who, back in France, had to mortgage his house to cover the cost of his documentary *The 17th parallel*, who devoted half of his reply to his friends' wishes for his 70th birthday, to a eulogy of Viet Nam;

Irina Lepsenko a Soviet Army heroine who had driven a tank in pursuit of the Nazis in Bulgaria, an author of 14 books, who, despite her weak heart went to President's Ho native place and had to write the first pages of her book on Viet Nam in a clinic back home;

Mr and Mrs **Peter Weiss** from West Germany who, following their Viet Nam tour, produced their Brecht-type play in countries of West Europe, Eastern Europe and Scandinavia, he, as stage director, and she, a designer;

Konishi, the famous veteran Japanese photographer who, in 10 years, took tens of thousands of pictures on Viet Nam, and supplied many Japanese and Western papers with realistic images, and put up exhibitions of his works in scores of countries to glorify his friends' resistance and stimulate his own people's battle against US imperialism.

HUNDREDS of others have difficulties of all sorts to create on Viet Nam and for Viet Nam. Some lost their jobs in their capitalist countries, some had to "evacuate" their children to the countryside to dedicate themselves wholly to their writing on Viet Nam, some learned of the death of their beloved ones while in Viet Nam, some had to save up for a long time for their passages to Viet Nam. Others gave up long-established ways of living to try sweet potato, manioc, to walk up hill and down dale with a heavy rucksack on their backs..., with a single eye to an objective: gather enough evidence to testify for a nation who is upholding justice with her blood and flesh, collect first hand material for works of art in praise of a revolutionary people.

If Viet Nam has taken the pledge "All for our victory over US aggression," Picasso has also issued this exhortation: "All for Viet Nam. All modern arts with Viet Nam!" (4)

The alarm gong suddenly rang. **Ly Van Sam** put the two books into his bag, slung it across his shoulder and went down into safety. Down on the banks of the stream, the Liberation girl dancers and singers cocked their rifles and took aim at two choppers which circled very high overhead and whirred off.

Mixed with the babble of the current, a poem was then heard chanted:

Oh Viet Nam, never forget for even a minute
That I still am,
And the sense of life
And the purpose of Viet Nam are one,
That Viet Nam's motivation
Is that of life itself.
Verses f are up in dazzling flames
To the thunder of Viet Nam's guns (5).

A smile appeared on **Ly Van Sam's** lips." Well," he said, "the girls have concluded for me."

KY PHUONG

---

(1) (2) Michèle Ray from France.
(3) By a Mexican journalist.
(4) At the meeting of French intellectual supporting Viet Nam, Paris March 1968.
(5) By Hermandez from Cuba.

THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA IN HER 22 YEARS

TWENTY-two years ago, on October 1, 1949 the People's Republic of China was founded.

It was the epoch-making crowning of a protracted, arduous and extremely heroic struggle of the Chinese people under the leadership of the Chinese Communist Party headed by Chairman Mao Tse-Tung. It was the greatest victory in the history of world revolution after the great Russian October Socialist Revolution. It dealt a thundering blow at the US-led imperialist system, tipping the balance of forces in the world to the advantage of the forces of socialism, national liberation, democracy and peace.

Over the past 22 years, immense China with one fourth of the world's population has gone through dramatic changes.

Semi-feudal and semi-colonial China, "poor and bled white," has become a big power with a modern industry, developed agriculture, strong national defence, and advanced culture, science and technology.

China has a comprehensive industry. She has succeeded in turning out nearly all the machines and equipment needed for her national economy and all her consumer goods; she has devised and built huge works. Her modern industry has made a big step in the manufacturing of motor-cars, jets, sea-going vessels, ice-breakers, high-grade alloys, precision instruments, etc.

She has applied the latest achievements of modern technology to agriculture and reaped bumper harvests for 10 successive years (1962-1971). Livestock-breeding, industrial crop growing... have also scored important successes.

Her latest scientific and technological feats such as atomic and nuclear bombs, guided missiles, artificial earth satellites have vividly demonstrated the giant's strides of new China.

The People's Republic of China with a big potential in all fields is contributing an important part to the strengthening of the world's forces against aggressive and bellicose imperialism headed by the United States.

The past 22 years have been 22 years of substantial and all-round support by the Chinese Communist Party, Government and people to the Vietnamese people's patriotic resistance war against the French colonialists in the past and the US imperialists at present.

Chairman Mao Tse-Tung, the great leader of the Chinese people, has said: "The 700-million Chinese people are the firm mainstay of the Vietnamese people, while immense China is their reliable rear area." Prime Minister Chou En-lai and many other leaders of the Chinese Party and Government have time and again affirmed: "To assist the patriotic resistances of the Vietnamese and other Indochinese peoples is an unswerving policy of the Chinese Communist Party and Government, a binding internationalist duty..." For decades, the Chinese people have been acting upon this directive and making all-out efforts to assist the South Vietnamese people's patriotic movement.

THE South Vietnamese people gratefully value the great and efficient help and assistance of the Chinese Communist Party, Government and people, as a great stimulus and encouragement to their national liberation effort.

On the occasion of the 22nd founding anniversary of the glorious People's Republic of China, they sincerely convey to the fraternal Chinese people their most heartfelt greetings. They warmly hail the fraternal Chinese people's brilliant achievements and wish them more and greater successes in their national construction and complete victory in their struggle to recover Taiwan, an inalienable part of Chinese territory.

Long live the friendship and militant solidarity between the peoples of Viet Nam and China!

THE Cambodian people and national liberation armed forces sprang vigorous offensives on the US-Saigon-Phnom Penh troops in all theatres of operations during the past three weeks, initially foiling Operation "Tchenla II."

AFP of September 5 wrote: The operation involving 21,000 troops on Highway 6 to Kompong Thom has been brought to a halt.

Other communication lines were also repeatedly assaulted. A military convoy on the Mekong was ambushed near Ba Nam: 5 vessels set ablaze or sunk (August 23). On September 2, a convoy of armoured vessels going upstream on the Ton Le Sap was also hit.

In the Phnom Penh sector, on Highways 6 and 5 and many other places, the national liberation armed forces scored many successes. The adversary admitted that Operation "Tchenla II" on Highway 6 to liberate Kompong Thom marked time, (*UPI*, September 7) and the government troops suffered the heaviest losses in many weeks (*AFP*, September 9).

Around Phnom Penh, 4 engagements took place on September 10. Siem Reap airfield was closed down on September 13 due to a violent bombardment. One position on Highway 5 was overrun.

Cambodia and Laos

Phnom Penh fuel depot set fire

Half of the Vientiane assaillants wiped out in Paksong

Another signal gain of the Cambodian national liberation armed forces was the shattering attack on the Phnom Penh fuel storage in the night of September 19. Commented *AFP*: This is perhaps a clear indication that the opponent (i.e. the Cambodian national liberation armed forces—*Ed.*) wants to show that he can attack any place, any time, though the government (i.e. the Lon Nol—*Ed.*) has asserted that the guerillas have been stopped short... All fuel supply in Phnom Penh has been cut off. The raid which cost the assailants no losses will certainly have a great psychological impact. There is doubt that it will deal a heavy blow at the current operation "Tchenla II." One wonders how it can be carried on without fuel.

According to *Reuter*, ESSO and Shell have lost each about 500,000 gallons of petrol, worth 800,000 dollars.

DURING the first 20 days of September, the Lao armed forces and people mounted unremitting and murderous actions on the Vientiane soldiers, Thai mercenaries and Vang Pao bandits. The military activities centered in the northern part of the Plain of Jars. *AP* of September 1 revealed that the Lao Royal forces were being ousted from the Plain of Jars. In the last three days of August and the first eleven days of September, the armed forces and people of Xieng Khoang and Saravane unceasingly struck at the enemy, knocked out 300 of them, seized and destroyed many weapons and military equipment.

The Xieng Khoang armed forces and people also badly mauled the GM. 23, thereby helping thwart the US imperialists and their stooges' scheme to encroach on the liberated zone of the Plain of Jars.

Despite a reinforcement of many Thai battalions under CIA direct command, the Vientiane inroads into the liberated Bolovens Plateaux were all beaten off. In the past weeks, hundreds of enemy troops were killed in this area, among them 140 Thai mercenaries, during attempts to reach Paksong. *AFP* of September 13 reported that: On September 9, two battalions were dropped at 10km east of Paksong, but the High Command has been unable to contact them.

The Vientiane military spokesman has admitted that half of the troops attacking Paksong had been lost.

The number of US planes brought down and destroyed in Laos from May 17, 1964 to September 5, 1971 ran to 2, 231.

THE DRVN IN BRIEF

• On September 21, 1971 more than 200 US aircraft violated the airspace of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam and bombed and strafed many populated areas in Quang Binh province, inflicting severe losses in life and property on the local population.

Two US aircraft were shot down, bringing to 3,399 the total number of US planes downed over North Viet Nam so far.

On September 23 the DRVN Foreign Ministry strongly protested in a statement against the piratical air strikes of Nixon.

• President Ton Duc Thang of the DRVN has recently visited the dike-construction site number T. 100 and civil servants and people in Yen Vien village, in the outskirts of Hanoi. The President congratulated the army officers and men, workers and public servants, teachers and students and the local people for having overcome all difficulties and hardships, to restore life to normal and protect the State and collective property. He recommended every people to unite and assist one another to quickly normalize their daily activities and resume production.

In the same period, Hoang Quoc Viet, President, Nguyen Cong Hoa and Truong Thi My, Vice-Presidents, of the Viet Nam Federation of Trade Unions, also toured areas affected by floods.

• The Central Board of Agriculture of the Viet Nam Workers' Party and the Ministry of Metallurgy and Engineering have sent over 1,000 technicians and workers of plants belonging to the Ministry, and teaching staff and students in electric engineering of the Hanoi Polytechnics and College of Agriculture number One to various striken areas to help wipe out the floods' aftermaths.

• Workers of different sections of the *March 8 Textile Plant* have volunteered to do overtime work, assisted one another to turn out 3 extra million metres of cloth for the flood victims.

Workers of various local industrial enterprises in Hanoi, Haiphong, Nam Ha... have been zealously engaged in an emulation movement to raise labour productivity, the quality of products and have undertaken to overfulfill their plans from 10 to 15 per cent to help make good the damage caused by the recent disaster.

• A number of big electric pumping-stations and hydropower-stations in North Viet Nam have used the A.C. in the automatic system and relay protection instead of the D.C.

This initiative has helped improve the managing work and transport, facilitate the workers' handling and increase economic efficiency.

• The groups in charge of studying radio-activity applied to medicine of the DRVN Ministry of Public Health has achieved initial results in the use of radio-active chromium and radio-active iodine to diagnose a number of diseases to be treated by medicine and blood affections.

• The Hanoi Pharmaceutical College has held a send-off for 94 newly graduated pharmacists bound for the front. All of them have pledged to determinedly fulfil every task assigned to them.

• On the 10th founding anniversary of the South Viet Nam Liberation Cinema service, the Viet Nam Cinema Workers' Association has held a talk on the South Viet Nam revolutionary cinematography. Three new films shot by *Giai Phong* (Liberation) Studio mamely *The hunters on Dak Sao*, *On the Tra riverside* and *Our Path* were screened on the same occasion.

• The Standing Committee of the drive to record reminiscences on the fight against the US aggressors for national salvation has awarded prises to works picked out of 800 entries.

The campaign has been eliciting warm response from a big number of officers and men of various army branches.

THE THIRD WORLD IN EFFERVESCENCE

• The Thai patriotic armed forces repeatedly ambushed between August 19 to September 1 enemy military convoys and beat off raids conducted by reactionary troops and police in Nakhon Phanom, Nan, Surat Thani and Yala provinces, wiping out 32 adverse troops and damaging 2 aircraft.

• In a well-laid ambush on the morning of August 11, the Malayan people's liberation armed forces in Pedang Terap (Kedah State) took a a toll of 30 Malaysian reactionary soldiers, and a military vehicle.

• Several demonstrations with some 20,000-strong participation broke out on August 13 in Manila. The marchers shouted slogans demanding the removal of the Marcos fascist regime and the immediate release of nearly 100 people illegally detained by them including the Head of the Philippines Commercial College.

Earlier on August 26, the Philippines Liberation army assaulted an air force CP in Isabella, wrecking 2 armed helicopters. As admitted by the spokesman of the authorities, quislings of the US, "this was the most daring attack ever mounted in the Philippines."

• The Dofar Liberation Army fiercely assailed on August 23 British colonialists North of Aanmon and Augad High Plateaux and Wadi Gardoon area, causing 39 casualties to the adversary and destroying 4 military vehicles.

• The Palestinian guerillas from August 12 to 20 continually struck at Israeli aggressors in Gaza and Sinai areas and the western side of Jordan River, wrecking 5 military trucks, blowing up a bridge and wiping out 18 enemy soldiers.

• From early May to late July 1971, the Mozambique Liberation Army in Tete province stormed 7 adverse barracks and posts, killing 82 Portuguese colonialist troops, destroying 5 cars and flattening a military base.

• The Angolese guerillas launched from June 4 to 14 powerful actions on Portuguese colonialist soldiers in Caianda, near Kingo River and on the Luchaze River left bank, taking a heavy toll of them. The adverse retaliatory raid on June 9 alone costed the assailants 30 casualties.

• Chilean President S. Allende and Peruvian President Alvarador pointed out in a joint communique on September 3 that Chile and Peru are against the US government's new measures to cope with the monetary problem. They stressed the necessity of intensifying joint actions among the Latin American nations and developing countries, and voiced support for Argentina's proposal to convene a meeting of the Latin American Extraordinary Co-ordination Committee to discuss steps to deal with the US new economic measures.

• The Venezuelan Oil Workers' Trade Union issued on September 2 a statement denouncing the massive lay-off at American companies as a move to pressure Venezuela into cancelling the law on the nationalization of American gas companies. The Trade Union also called on the Venezuelan workers to unite and struggle against such a sabotage attempt.

• 10,000 Puerto Ricans staged on September 12 a walk on a 6 km long on main throroughfares in San Juan to urge independence from the US for Puerto Rico.

• Students in Tegucigalpa (Honduras) recently held several demonstrations and strikes in protest against the US control of Honduras' education through the so-called cultural "assistance" agreement. The protest has won warm support from workers and teachers.

• Recently, many demonstrations against US imperialists end its Pak Jung Hi puppet rule were staged by South Koreans from all walks of life: The Seoul university students' against the 2nd phase of military training; the Icsosan middle school teachers' against the Pak Jung Hi clique diddemination of corrupt American way of life; the Pupzong auto workers' sit down strike for freedom of trade union activities; the 4 South Korean universities doctors' and nurses' walk out for wage lift, and the Seoul poor trademen's sit-in against onerous taxes.

Peruvians demonstrating against US aggressive war

Tricky dick under fire

SINCE its announcement three months ago, the 7-point peace initiative of the RSVN PRG has been warmly welcomed by press and political circles throughout the world in spite of Nixon's tremendous efforts to divert public attention from it. Even now it is still in the news, and a main topic in diplomatic talks and gatherings, in international conferences and congresses, during visits and meetings of State and Party representatives, and in the political life of many countries as well. When discussing international affairs one's attitude toward it is the gauge of one's political tendency.

It has been well received indeed not only in places where the Vietnamese people have their official or non-official representatives, but also in places where they have none. In the US it has been viewed as a "positive," a "most interesting", "so far the best" initiative and in the world it has been described as fully "correct," "fair and sound," as "the best basis for a peaceful settlement of the South Viet Nam issue", "a manifestation of the PRG goodwill and serious attitude in negotiation," etc., but all this is not enough to explain the extent of the support. Is it then their sympathy with the heroic people of South Viet Nam, which is at the bottom of the adoption by Scandinavian countries of the seven points as their main theme of propaganda? On Sept. 17 last, in an article praising them, the Burmese paper *Vanguard* wrote:

The RSVN PRG seven-point program is sound and correct and enjoys the support of North Viet Nam, all socialist countries and also many neutralist countries. Even a number of countries linked by alliances to the United States insist that the latter give it due consideration. The growing peace forces in the United States are strongly supporting the Seven Points.

It is now unanimously accepted that the PRG proposal not only conforms to the South Vietnamese people's basic national rights and legitimate interests, but also to the American people's eager desire to put an end to the war and bring home their GI's, and to the deep aspirations for peace, freedom and justice of the peoples all over the world. The Viet Nam issue has become the central problem, and South Viet Nam has been recognized as the forefront of the world peoples struggle against US-led imperialism, colonialism and neocolonialism. All the principles that must serve as the basis for its settlement are to be found in the Seven Points, especially in Points 1 and 2.

It is therefore no wonder that while endorsing the PRG peace initiative, world opinion has been severely flaying the US endeavours to stick to its ill-starred "Vietnamization," to leave in South Viet Nam large contingents of US troops, to keep in office Nguyen Van Thieu—the fascist dictator—through rigged elections, as a docile instrument for the achievement of US neo-colonialism, and to elude a serious answer to the PRG peace overture. It has been urging a deadline for the withdrawal of all US troops from South Viet Nam and cessation of US support to its Saigon stooges, and it has warned that so long these two requirements are not met, the war is due to continue (*Vanguard*, of Burma, Sept. 17).

Well-known Swedish writer Sara Lidman wrote in her terse and forceful prose: "The peace initiative creates conditions for a US exit in peace. Washington should bring home the GIs and all their panoply of guns, poisons and gases. The Vietnamese only want to live in their own land.

But what has been Nixon's answer? He has simply been ignoring the peace proposal and acting as if the GIs stationed in South Viet Nam basis had no native land. He has been indulging in antics to make the world forget the PRG meaningful peace program. Negotiations are continuing in Paris. Nixon can find peace there if he really wants it.

"Nixon's refusal to respond to the 7 points proves that he is trying to gain time for the prosecution of the war. He is the wickest and most brutal murderer..." Sara Lidman's feeling is certainly shared by the world people's.

"SO long as Nixon does not accept the seven-point program... we cannot trust any of his words — an assassin remains an assassin" (Statement by Walter Listel, an executive member of the Socialist Working Youth SDAJ — of West Germany at the Eisenach youth summer camp). This is a conclusion drawn by the peoples throughout the world from the obstinacy of the US rulers with regard to the Seven Points.

However, Nixon pretending to be deaf and dumb, keeps trumpetting his "troop withdrawal" plans and his intention to "put an early end to US involvement in Viet Nam." In Paris, W. Porter, the new head of the US delegation, is reiterating the shop-worn US proposal for "restricted sessions" and demanding for "clarifications" on the seven points. On the other hand, the US president has declared he will continue his "aid program" to his Saigon valets even though the "democratic elections" there are run for by only one candidate — Nguyen Van Thieu. Meanwhile, US military activities have been on the increase in South Viet Nam, Cambodia and Laos and furious air attacks mounted against populated areas of the DRVN. These facts have prompted the "Washington Star" to write on Sept. 6: It is now clear that Nixon is absolutely bent upon doing nothing to negotiate an end to the Viet Nam war.

It is beyond any doubt that in the days to come, world opinion will combine action with the South Vietnamese, Cambodian and Lao peoples to inflict due punishment on the chieftain of warlike aggressors in the White House and his Saigon henchmen, and force him to give up his "Vietnamization" program and his reactionary doctrine of "pitting Indochinese against Indochinese."

It would be sheer folly if Mr Nixon tried to hide the sun with his bloody hands. Who plays with fire will get burnt.

DAI LIEN

SOUTH VIET NAM CENTRAL ORGAN OF THE SOUTH VIET NAM NATIONAL FRONT FOR LIBERATION